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August 3, 2011

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

The Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce is a longstanding business organization that currently has over 800 members. We are tasked with the job of advancing the general welfare of our citizens and the local businesses that employ them. Advocating for improved means of communication is one way that we can support both our local business community and residents.

As president of our chamber, I feel that the approval of the proposed AT&T – T-Mobile merger is crucial to the longevity of our association and the realization of its goals. The area we serve is largely rural, and mobile phone service and internet access are lackluster at best. Studies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture have shown that rural communities with greater broadband access experience increased economic growth, and we could certainly benefit from this outcome. With the approval of this merger, AT&T promises to extend its latest LTE wireless service to reach more than 55 million more Americans, largely in rural areas, than with current plans.

As you consider your decision with regards to this merger, I ask that you keep rural communities like mine in mind. I have no doubt that improved access to high-speed wireless networks would lead to economic growth in our corner of the country.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Ryan  
President & CEO

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn